

G. K. BUTTERFIELD
1ST DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

2305 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3301
(202) 225-3101
FACSIMILE: (202) 225-3354
www.house.gov/butterfield



**COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

SUBCOMMITTEES
RANKING MEMBER, COMMERCE,
MANUFACTURING & TRADE
ENVIRONMENT & THE ECONOMY

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

April 20, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C., 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing about the status of WC Docket No. 09-144, Securus Petition for Declaratory Ruling. It is my understanding that this petition has been before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for over a year without any action.


The lack of regulatory certainty surrounding this petition has left providers of telecommunication services to prison inmate families, and the families themselves, without an understanding what services can be provided and at what cost.

As you are aware, calls made by inmates to their families are often much more expensive than other typical local and long-distance communications. This is a burden on a largely economically disadvantaged population, and this may be a factor in the rise in the dangerous and illegal smuggling of cellular phone into prisons.

While I take no position on how the FCC should rule on this petition, I do urge you to place this item on the FCC's agenda for consideration in the very near future, so that companies and families involved can obtain the needed regulatory certainty.

I look forward to your prompt response and thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Atwell Baker

DISTRICT OFFICES

216 N.E. NASH STREET, STE. B
WILSON, NC 27893
TELEPHONE: (252) 237-9816
FACSIMILE: (252) 291-0356

309 WEST THIRD STREET
WELDON, NC 27890
TELEPHONE: (252) 538-4123
FACSIMILE: (252) 538-6516

*UCB
fay
5/2/11*



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

August 19, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your letter regarding inmate calling services and the related rulemaking proceeding pending before the Commission. The Securus Petition involves a service marketed for a monthly fee to inmate families called ConsCallHome. An inmate's family subscribing to that service receives a phone number local to the prison. When the inmate calls the local number, ConsCallHome uses a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) router to route the call from the local number to the family's home number even if it is outside the local calling area. By using this methodology, inmate families pay the set-up charge for the call and any charges for a local call, and do not incur long distance charges.

The Securus Petition requests the Commission to rule that services like ConsCallHome are a call diversion scheme, which Securus is entitled to block pursuant to Commission precedent. This Petition raises complex factual questions and legal issues that may have security implications for the public. Commission staff is reviewing the record that has been compiled and has been meeting with interested parties to obtain a better understanding of the information submitted to the Commission. Please be assured that the Commission is working as expeditiously as possible to address the questions raised in this proceeding.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski